

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13
By Pleasant

A RESOLUTION to honor George Harvell, Jr., Mayor of the City of Millington, Tennessee, upon the occasion of his retirement and his command surpassing twenty years of honorable public service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those inimitable public servants who during their tenure in office have performed their appointed duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented commitment and whose professionalism and competence will serve as a benchmark for future public officials; and

WHEREAS, Millington, Tennessee Mayor George Harvell, Jr. is one such distinguished public servant who has given unselfishly of himself, his time, and his remarkable talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, this honorable Tennessean has served the good citizens of this State in a wide range of positions, most notably as the distinguished Mayor of the City of Millington, in which position he has served his constituents with dedication, diligence, and probity from the year 1985 until his retirement in 2004; the integrity and commitment with which he performed his mayoral duties justly garnered him the prestigious "Tennessee Mayor of the Year" award from the Tennessee Municipal League in 1993; and

WHEREAS, George Harvell, Jr. ably served as a City of Millington Alderman beginning in the year 1968 and continuing until the citizens of Millington evinced their full faith in his skill and dedication by electing him Mayor in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Harvell has demonstrated his commitment to building a strong, active, and thriving city and has remained unfaltering in his civic dedication when faced with challenges, including serious economic hardship and population loss resulting from the closure

of the Millington Naval Air Station; he acted commendably as Chairman of the Millington Naval Base reuse Committee, which directed the planning and reuse of over 1,800 acres of surplus United States Department of Defense property, resulting in the successful transfer of 550 acres to the Millington Municipal Airport Authority and 1,285 acres for industrial purposes to the Industrial Development Board of the City of Millington; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Harvell has received national recognition for his ground-breaking approach in generating an extensive flood control program following torrential rains that spawned massive flooding in Millington, and his ethic for responsible management of the environment did also contribute to his judicious service on the Tennessee Solid Waste Disposal Control Board; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Harvell has selflessly supplemented his Mayoral tenure with nearly 20 years of dedication to the advancement of municipal government in Tennessee as a member of Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, despite challenges and difficult circumstances, Mayor Harvell nobly assumed the Presidency of the Tennessee Municipal League in 1998, thereby performing an immense service to the towns and cities of Tennessee during his illustrious tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Harvell is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy civic and governmental organizations, including membership on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League Risk Management Pool, which he served as Chairman until his retirement; he is an Executive Board member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization; a member of the Chickasaw Basin Authority; Secretary/Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Area Association of Governments; member of the Navy League; member of the Millington Planning Commission; member of the West Tennessee Mayors' Association; member of the Groundwater Quality Control Board; member of Millington Chamber of Commerce; and a lifetime member of the Parent Teacher Association; he has also served with the Chickasaw Boy Scout Council and, in January 2002, was appointed to the Board of Directors for the National League of Cities; and

WHEREAS, George Harvell, Jr. served honorably in the United States Army for two years during the Korean Conflict before he was honorably discharged; in 1956, he founded his own business, which he maintained until his election as Mayor of Millington in 1985; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Millington, Tennessee, George Harvell, Jr. attended primary and secondary schools in Millington, graduating from Millington Central High School; he then attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in Geology; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Harvell exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of over 40 years, the former Virginia Ross, a current member on the First Elected Shelby County School Board and a former secretary at Millington Central High School, where she served for an admirable 26 years; he is the proud father of two sons and a loving grandfather to six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Harvell has won the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and the people of Millington; he is renowned as an advocate and crusader for good, responsive government and for the needs and concerns of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, due to Mayor Harvell's honorable and gallant service, Millington, Tennessee is undoubtedly a better place to live and work; it is now highly appropriate that the friends and colleagues of this outstanding public servant should honor him and recognize his numerous accomplishments and contributions to our great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to George Harvell, Jr. for his immeasurable service to Tennessee during his twenty years of service as Mayor to Millington, Tennessee and honor him for his many years of service to his fellow Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.